



FEDERAL VOTING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

# Voting Information News

July 2008 or Vol. 18, No. 7

*A roundup of voting news from the Department of Defense, Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) for voters, potential voters, and those who assist voters.*

## Issue Highlights:

Overseas Citizens  
Voters Week... 1

The Fundamentals—  
Attending an FVAP  
Workshop... 2

2008-09 Presidential  
Post Election Survey  
... 3

## Voting Assistance Officers' "To Do"

### This Month:

☒ Take inventory of your supplies. You want to make sure you have FPCAs, FWABs and posters on hand for Overseas Citizens' Voting Week.

☒ Be sure your contact information has been posted correctly in your area. Make sure installation or Embassy/Consulate telephone operators know to refer callers requiring voting assistance to you.

(Continued on next page)

## Celebrate Independence – Overseas Citizens' Voting Week June 28 – July 7, 2008

The Secretary of Defense has designated June 28 through July 7, 2008 as Overseas Citizens Voters Week. This is an excellent time to get the word out as U.S. citizens gather for Independence Day activities.

Overseas Citizens Voters Week is generally geared toward non-military voters, but the Services are encouraged to have an Independence Day registration booth, too. As a Voting Assistance Officer (VAO), you should make sure that those you support have received and filled out their Federal Post Card Application (FPCA, SF 76) for registration and/or ballot request.

You should work with other VAOs on base to plan Overseas Citizens Voters Week. The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) schedules this event the week around the Fourth of July because many bases, embassies and consulates have celebrations that enable you to reach a large contingent of people at once.

The VAOs on base should coordinate with their installation VAO and their Service Voting Action Officer (see page 3) in the development of "Overseas

Citizens Voters Week. Publicize the importance of early action on the part of the voter in order to obtain a ballot for the general election well in advance of election deadlines. Your Installation VAO and Service Voting Action Officer will have "good ideas" to pass on to you. Also look on the FVAP website for "good ideas" from other Services.

The objective of this campaign is to promote voter outreach efforts worldwide. Events should help ensure that all citizens have been given the opportunity to receive information on how to obtain an absentee ballot and how to return their voted ballot on time to meet the state deadlines.

Events held during this week should create excitement about voting. Examples of outreach efforts include disseminating voter information and registration forms, conducting voter registration drives and training workshops, and providing general assistance to citizens. Local publicity campaigns, ranging from newspaper articles and posters to television and radio coverage, can inform voters when and where these events occur.

Continued on Page 4

## "To Do" This Month

(continued):

☒ Review the 2008-09 Voting Assistance Guide's Introduction, Chapter 1 and Chapter 2 for important information.

☒ Every month you should be checking the FVAP website ([www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)) for updates to the 2008-09 Voting Assistance Guide.

**NOTE:** The appearance of external hyperlinks does not constitute endorsement by the United States Federal Government, United States Department of Defense or the Federal Voting Assistance Program of the linked web sites, or the information, products or services contained therein. The Federal Voting Assistance Program does not exercise any editorial control over the information you may find at these locations.

# The Fundamentals of Being a Voting Assistance Officer – FVAP Workshops

It is highly recommended that as a Voting Assistance Officer, you attend a training workshop.

## The Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) Workshop

The FVAP conducts Voting Assistance Officer (VAO) training on the first and third Thursday of every month at the FVAP office. In addition, the FVAP provides a number of regionally-held workshops at select military installations and mobilization sites as requested by the Services. These workshops are oriented towards VAOs and persons who provide voting assistance at U.S. Embassies and Consulates, Military installations, and American Citizen Organizations overseas. VAOs from nearby installations, regardless of Service, should be invited to attend these workshops at the host installation. Although primarily for VAOs, workshops are open to any interested persons.

The workshop takes approximately two hours and is an interactive, hands-on training session with the participants asking questions and making comments as the workshop progresses. The workshop provides timely information about the absentee registration and voting process for Uniformed Services voters and U.S. citizens overseas; information, resources and tools critical to preparing VAOs to effectively perform their duties in assisting *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act* (UOCAVA) citizens.

## Role of the VAO

VAOs are critical to the success of voting assistance programs. In fact, the knowledge and effectiveness of a VAO, combined with a comprehensive voting assistance plan, may very well determine whether a citizen understands how and when to participate in the election process. VAOs are responsible for providing accurate, non-partisan voting information and assistance to citizens of all 55 states and territories who want to exercise their right to vote. Many VAOs are new to the job and may find it difficult to provide voting assistance or answer voting related questions. The VAO training workshop will answer these questions and make it easier for VAOs to help individuals follow the proper absentee ballot procedures.

Continued on Page 4

## Online VAO Training Courses

In addition to the onsite VAO Training courses, the FVAP has the two versions (Uniformed Service, and Overseas Citizens.) of the VAO training courses online in Adobe Acrobat and Microsoft PowerPoint 2003 formats at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov). The Adobe Acrobat version requires Acrobat Reader 7.0 or higher to view. This material is also on the VAO Resources CD, available upon request through email at [vote@fvap.ncr.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov).

FVAP also provides a self-administered VAO training, available online and on the VAO Resources CD. **The self-administered training is targeted to VAOs who are not able to attend an instructor-led workshop.** Once the training is complete, the VAO will be able to print off a training certificate to place in the Voting Program Continuity Folder.

It is important to use the 2008-09 Voting Assistance Guide, and the FPCA (SF76) and the FWAB (SF186) while taking any of these courses. ☒

Moving? Send your local election official an updated FPCA with your new address. Send us an email so you and your replacement can continue receiving this newsletter.

## 2008-09 Presidential Post-Election Survey

Each presidential election year, the Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) conducts post-election surveys as required by the *Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA)*. These surveys help determine voter participation by military and overseas citizens in the electoral process and assist us in evaluating and improving our program. This survey is not the same as the Election Day survey conducted by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission.

There are six populations that make up the FVAP post-election survey.

- Department of State Voting Assistance Officers
- Local Election Officials
- Unit Voting Assistance Officers
- Uniformed Service Members (active duty and reserve)
- Overseas Citizens – Non-Federal Employees
- Federal Civilian Employees Overseas

The actual survey will be administered in **November 2008**. If contacted to take the survey, we strongly encourage you to participate, as your responses will play a very important part in improving the absentee voting process for military and overseas absentee voters. If you have any questions or comments regarding the survey, please contact Ms. Erin E. St Pierre at 1-800-438-8683 or [vote@fvap.ncr.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov).

The FVAP thanks you in advance for your participation!

**Be Sure To Add This  
Newsletter to Your VOTING  
CONTINUITY FOLDER**

### Voting Action Officers

#### Department of State: Office of Overseas Citizens Services

**Chief VAO:** Mr. Jack Markey (202) 736-4937, fax: (202) 647-6201, [votinginfo@state.gov](mailto:votinginfo@state.gov)  
**Deputy VAO:** Ms. Elizabeth Gracon, (202) 647-6129, fax: (202) 647-6201  
[http://travel.state.gov/law/info/info\\_2964.html](http://travel.state.gov/law/info/info_2964.html)

#### Service Voting Action Officers

**Army:** Mr. Alton Perry (703) 325-4530, DSN: 221-4530, fax: (703) 325-4532, DSN fax: 221-4532, [alton.c.perry@conus.army.mil](mailto:alton.c.perry@conus.army.mil), <https://www.hrc.army.mil/site/Active/TAGD/pssd/psb/votingindex.htm>

**Navy:** LT Jason Watkins 1-866-U-ASK-NPC (827-5672) (select option 6 from menu), fax: (901) 874-6844, DSN fax: 882-6844, [vote@navy.mil](mailto:vote@navy.mil), [http://www.cni.navy.mil/cnic\\_hq\\_site/BaseSupport/CommandStaff/NavyVotingProgram/index.htm](http://www.cni.navy.mil/cnic_hq_site/BaseSupport/CommandStaff/NavyVotingProgram/index.htm)

**Air Force:** Mr. Gilbert D. Harrison, Jr. (210) 565-5000, toll free: 1-800 616-3775 (Select options 1, then 1, then 2 from menu), DSN: 665-5000, fax: (210) 565-2543, DSN fax: 665-2543, [afpc/dpffofvotefund@randolph.af.mil](mailto:afpc/dpffofvotefund@randolph.af.mil), <http://www.afcrossroads.com/VoteFund/Vote/default.htm>

**Marine Corps:** Mr. David E. James (703) 784-9511, DSN: 278-9511, fax: (703) 784-9823, DSN fax: 278-9823, [mra.voting.officer@usmc.mil](mailto:mra.voting.officer@usmc.mil), [https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/pls/portal/url/page/m\\_ra\\_home/MR/Personnel/Voting](https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/pls/portal/url/page/m_ra_home/MR/Personnel/Voting)

**Coast Guard:** LTJG Frank Marcheski (202) 475-5375, fax: (202) 475-5927, [Frank.A.Marcheski@uscg.mil](mailto:Frank.A.Marcheski@uscg.mil), [http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wp/g-wpm-1/VotingAssistance/Voting\\_Assistance.htm](http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-w/g-wp/g-wpm-1/VotingAssistance/Voting_Assistance.htm)

Links to the Services' websites are available at [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov).

## **Federal Voting Assistance Program**

Department of Defense  
1155 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC  
20301-1155

(703) 588-1584  
DSN 425-1584

TOLL FREE:  
1-800-438-VOTE (8683)

FAX:  
(703) 696-1352  
DSN 426-1352

Visit our website for  
international toll-free phone  
and fax numbers.

EMAIL:  
[vote@fvap.ncr.gov](mailto:vote@fvap.ncr.gov)

Comments or  
suggestions on this  
newsletter are welcome  
and appreciated.

Website:  
[www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov)

# **Vote!**

## **Overseas Citizens Voters Week** (Continued from page 1)

### **In preparation VAOs should do the following:**

- 1 - Gather voting materials (forms, posters, pamphlets)
- 2 - Contact the installation organization in charge of social activities and see if there will be an Independence Day celebration
- 3 - Prepare to set up a booth or table at the Fourth of July Celebration so you can share voting information
- 4 - Prepare short information pieces for local newsletters or bulletin boards regarding the upcoming event or elections coming up

## **Workshops** (Continued from page 2)

### **Basic agenda**

The Installation VAO begins by introducing the commander (General/Flag officer or other high ranking) who will give the opening remarks and introduce the FVAP person who will lead the workshop. If the local election official is available, FVAP will present him or her. (The local election official will answer questions pertinent to local military voters that may come up during the session and may distribute local forms.) The workshop will cover the following topics: the UOCAVA and the FVAP, the VAO duties and responsibilities, the absentee voting process, how to use absentee voting materials and additional resources.

Events should emphasize the importance of registering and requesting an absentee ballot in sufficient time to allow citizens to receive, vote and return the voted ballot in time to meet state election deadlines.

VAOs should note that they cannot advise voters on specific candidates or issues and that all activities should be conducted on a nonpartisan basis. However VAOs may refer these citizens to other information sources such as local, regional and national newspapers, information pamphlets from political parties, and the FVAP website [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) (select State Election Sites).

**Share this issue of the Voting Information News with others!**

COMMANDER, PERSCOM  
ATTN: TAPC-PDO-IP  
(VOTING ACTION OFFICER - J. DAVIS)  
200 STOVALL STREET  
ALEXANDRIA VA 22332-0474

2233280474 0000

NO POSTAGE NECESSARY IN THE U.S. MAIL - DMM 703.8.0

**OFFICIAL VOTING INFORMATION MATERIAL - FIRST CLASS MAIL**

U.S. Postage Paid  
39 USC 3406



Federal Voting Assistance Program  
Department of Defense  
1155 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1155